



Darren Dunkle, Director of Parks, Recreation & Forestry

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TO: University City Parks Commission
FROM: Darren Dunkle, Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry
DATE: March 13, 2020
SUBJECT: Block Party Recommendation

As you may be aware, resident associations within University City can request City Manager approval to hold a block party. Most of these block parties are put on by neighborhood associations, churches, block units and civic groups. And as part of their Block Party request, they ask for the use of tables, benches, trash and recycling receptacles.

The Block Party Permit and amenities are provided at no charge; however, availability of the amenities is not guaranteed. Most of these events take place on the weekend; therefore, the Parks Maintenance Division will deliver the amenities requested on Friday morning and will pick up the amenities following the event on Monday. Normally a four-person crew can perform these duties in approximately two hours on both Friday and Monday mornings. The time spent performing these tasks of course is based on the number of reservations, number of amenities reserved and available staff to make the deliveries and pickup.

The Parks Maintenance Division averages approximately 45 block parties per year and utilizes approximately 300 manhours per year. The average man hour costs associated with this service is \$190.94 per event and approximately \$8,592.21 per year; with the average equipment costs (trucks and trailers) associated with this service \$161.67 per event and approximately \$7,275.00 per year; totaling an average cost of \$352.60 per event or approximately \$15,867.21 per year. In addition to the financial cost, the Parks Maintenance Division is losing approximately eight manhours every Friday and Monday, which basically takes one maintenance worker out of park related maintenance every Friday and Monday.

These are ancillary services that are currently being provided by the Parks Maintenance Division, and although these services are beneficial to the community, they create both a financial and manpower problem for the Parks Maintenance Division. It is staff's recommendation that Block Party Permits either be: 1) Free of charge without the use of amenities; or 2) Limited to one event per group or organization in a calendar year and a fee per event to recover the cost of manpower.